Failure of PDS in Andhra Pradesh

1682. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that PDS in Andhra Pradesh has virtually failed due to inability of the State Government to ensure that PDS items reach to the actual beneficiaries and also due to various scams of diverting PDS items to open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take to save the PDS system in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foodgrain Stock

1683. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the existing foodgrain stocks in the country;

(b) the details of minimum necessary buffer stocks;

(c) the expenditure incurred in accumulation and maintenance of one million tonne of stock per day; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to disburse the excess stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) The stock of rice and wheat as on 31st October, 2002 in the Central Pool was 205.09 lakh tonnes and 330.59 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) The minimum prescribed buffer stocking norms of rice and wheat as on 1st October, 2002 was 65 lakh tonnes and 116 lakh tonnes respectively.

(c) As per budget for the year 2002-03 (BE), the expenditure on

maintenance of one million tonnes of buffer stocks would be Rs. 0.75 crores per day.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to dispose off the excess stock are indicated in the Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to Dispose of the Excess Stock of Foodgrains

(i) The scale of issue for APL, BPL and Antyodaya households has been increased to 35 from 25 kg. per household per month.

(ii) The scale of issue for all welfare institutions are hostels has been fixed uniformly @ 15 kg. per head per month. An additional allocation equal to 5% of the BPL allocation of States/UTs on this account has been made for the year 2002-2003 at BPL, CIP.

(iii) To increase export of wheat and rice including luster lost wheat, provide WTO compatible subsidies for exports of wheat, wheat products and rice.

(iv) To remove quantitative restrictions on the exports of rice, wheat and wheat products, subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs (100 lakh MTs of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time.

(v) To extend commodity assistance in the form of foodgrains to other countries on terms to be decided on a case-to-case basis.

Procurement of foodgrains in Tripura

1684. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has any plan to procure foodgrains in Tripura during the current harvesting season;

(b) if so, the number and locations of the purchasing centres selected alongwith support price thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.